

Student Voices

Spring 2018

Volume 22, Issue 1



Century Tower at Sunset
Photograph by Melina Jimenez

A Message from the Editor

I hope you enjoy reading this edition. To all of the students who contributed your writing, thank you for sharing your amazing work with us! Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging prizes for the winners, to the ELI instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Elia Guldán, Victoria Shelly, Debbie Sakalla, Shaina Crum, C'Andre Codner, Tiffany Frison, Tom Ratican, and Olga Moody for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

Christine Voigt

WINNING PIECES

First Place

"They are..." by Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas

Second Place

"I Do Not Forget My Identity" by Kelly Huizzi

Honorable Mentions

"Painting by Elias Lytton 'Flowers Are God's Way of Smiling'" by Stephanie Mejias Rondon

"Child Labor" by Abeer Alqahtani

"Hidden on the top of the mountain" by Sheila Hernandez

First Place Winner

They are...

Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas
RW 51

Always warm welcome,
They open their minds and hearts
Also they become part of the pupil's family,
It is not another teaching,
Each day the best, and better than the last one.

Between tests, readings, presentations and questions,
Guiding learners in foreign universe is not simple as ABC,
But in their hearts, their passion for teaching:
Keep alive the dream of their students.

I will miss my professors and coaches,
The grammar recommendations aloud by Zoe in each class,
Scott's patience with some abstract ideas and awesome photos for describing,
The grammar dance from Debbie and her kind heart,
The sweetest Lynn who support me in homesick times and has a beautiful smile.

Each personal explanation mistake by mistake with Barbara Hess,
It doesn't mind the time!
Matt's hidden smile and the grammar race in Fall B,
Cookies and Star Wars cards in St. Valentine's day by Melina;
Often finding new ways to teach and learn.

The funny time with Todd and his encouraging words
That motivate me to write more and become versed,
And Patrick who puts on the air complex ideas in easy way;
Together with an empathic smile and passionate learning.

They are rushing in the hallway, in the streets or between the buildings,
They seem like a normal people but they are exceptional!

*This poem is dedicated to teachers in ELI and is one way to say that I
appreciate the effort in my learning, Thanks very much!*

Second Place Winner

I Do Not Forget My Identity

Kelly Huizzi
RW 42

I grew step by step
jumping from ceiling to ceiling
while greeting my neighbors.
In that barrio, I had everything that I wanted
the stars of my flag
there are the same ones that where in heaven
lighting my path,
the blue night clothed me
-although it was unable to protect me-
The perfect weather allowed me to sleep in my hammock if I wanted,
humble and kind people who keep coming out to fight every day.
In that neighborhood
-as small as it was Insafe-
I would not hesitate to go back to sleep there.

Painting by Elias Lytton
"Flowers Are God's Way of Smiling"

Stephanie Mejias Rondon
GW

Grateful. I can see the colors of the flowers, imagine the texture of them, the smell; I can feel them. Somehow it makes me feel at peace, like everything is going to be O.K. I believe the more grateful we are, the more the universe can offer us. However, sometimes I feel frustrated when things do not go the way I first expected them to go. But then I realized my problems are not big as they first seem to be; there are plenty of people struggling with situations much more complicated than mine, and yet here I am, still dreaming, still working for what I want. I know I have everything I need to succeed in life and I find myself sometimes wasting my time worrying about small things. By looking at the painting, I feel relief and blessed, if "Flowers are God's way of Smiling" then God might be smiling through them to everyone who takes a minute to stare at them, to admire their beauty. Their beauty is a reminder of the bliss we can find in the smallest things in life, a reminder to count our blessings to appreciate what we already have. If we commit ourselves to try to see the bad scenarios as essential lessons to our personal growth, we might find the strength to keep going and not to give up, and eventually find the reward we were looking for.

I will use my hometown as an example. Valencia is surrounded by many mountains. I personally love mountains, I can find myself staring at them for a long period of time. However, a few months before leaving my country I started to seem them more beautiful than ever, to admire them most, because I knew I was not going to see them for a long time. Of course, the city I lived in has some bad things, maybe places that I do not like at all but overall, I love it because it is the place where I grew up, where I lived lots of beautiful and important moments in my life. As the flowers of the painting that can light up our days, those mountains did the same for me in multiples times. Maybe I should learn to do the same with my body and myself. To not be so hard with myself, to treat me better. To find the things I liked the most about myself and embrace the ones I do not. To focus on finding my inner motivation, and to be a supporter of myself.

The painting made me feel that not matter how bad I thought a situation one, not everything is lost, I can always start over, I can always learn from something and I can always do better the next time. Do no be desperate, life and flowers are smiling at you.

Gainesville City

Abdulrahman A J Alanazi
RW 20

Gainesville is a beautiful city, and it is my favorite city. The city has a wonderful university. I like Gainesville city because the weather is nice. The buildings in the city are small because it is not a big city. There are many gardens in the city, and the gardens in the city are special. When I travel outside the city, I don't feel uncomfortable. I walk the city because I feel safe. When I go to the mall of the city, I see beautiful people. The university in the city is one of the top five universities in America. I see this city as the best city to study in America. I love this city so much.

My First Day at the ELI

Mamdouh Alremal
RW 10/20

My first day at the ELI was very tiring. I got into many accidents. At the beginning of the day, I didn't know which bus would take me to my classroom. I took a wrong bus and went to some place. I started walking and was very late to my class. I told myself that I'd better run. After that, I arrived, but it was not the right place. Then I wanted to go back to my apartment, but I rode on another wrong bus again and went to somewhere else. By the end, I came home safely, but I will never forget my first day at the ELI.

My Favorite Movie

Eleny Perozo
RW 10/20

My favorite movie is The Notebook. The notebook is a romantic movie. It's about an elderly couple who are still very much in love, but she suffers from memory loss. He reads every day the story of how they meet and fall in love in the beginning with the hope that she remembers him. When they read the story of how they fall in love, the viewers get to know how her parents make them separate for a long time. But several years later, they manage to reunite, and from that moment on they are not separated from each other. This is my favorite movie because even though they are forced to be separated, they manage to meet again and be together for the rest of their lives despite all the difficulties.

Child Labor

Abeer Alqahtani
RW43

There are many organizations to protect children rights worldwide. Every child has the right to eat, play, learn, and not be subject to any kinds of abuse. Most people think beating and harassment are the only types of child abuse because these topics are always discussed, especially in media. However, child labor, which is defined as assigning children to work beyond their abilities and denying them their rights to education and well-being, is a hidden type of child abuse. Child labor has many causes and influences on children themselves and communities as well. Most child rights associations and governments are looking for radical solutions to this problem to save children and their future.

Child labor results from many causes which contribute to increasing the prevalence of this problem. Poverty is considered the main cause of the child labor. When parents fail to provide for their family's needs, some of them tend to employ all family members, even children, to improve their financial situation. To illustrate that, most African children are forced to work in order to be able to survive. The second cause of child labor is war which is always linked to the instability of economic status of people. For example, the child labor percentage has increased in Syria during the current war there. Adults fight in wars and children work to obtain food for their families. Lack of awareness of the importance of education among people is another reason for child labor. In some communities, people believe that work will benefit their children more than education and will contribute to refining their personalities. They think it is enough for their children to know how to read and write only. For instance, a lot of boys in Afghanistan leave education after they finish elementary school in order to find a job. The last cause is the lower cost of child workers compared to adults. Many employers choose to employ children because they do not have to pay them as much as adult workers who may have conditions and know more about their rights.

Child labor has many effects on children and communities as well. Child labor has an impact on a child's psychology and health in general. Children have the right to enjoy their childhood, to play and have fun, but early workloads will deprive them of their rights. For instance, while we find children make an effort to sell sweets, we see their peers enjoy eating this candy, which will affect their psychological status. For instance, in Bangladesh, many children work in clothing factories to make clothes for other children of the same age in different countries, which is reflected negatively on them. In addition, child workers sometimes work for long hours or do work that requires high physical effort which has influences on their health situation. Another effect of child labor is exposing children to harassment because they will deal with people of different moral levels and the children can not protect themselves. For example, many child workers are robbed and raped. Furthermore, one of the

child labor effects in communities is the limiting of development because the high percentages of uneducated people will result in a low developmental level for countries experiencing this problem. To improve community, we need educated people to develop and implement development plans. For instance, most countries that suffer from child labor are third-world countries such as Somalia.

Solving the child labor problem needs great efforts from all parties: governments and responsible international organizations. They have to work hard to eliminate all causes of this problem. First, they have to overcome the poverty, which is the biggest cause of child labor, by improving the standard of living for all members of society and emphasizing the importance of children education which will contribute to economic growth and therefore provide good income for poor families, so they do not need to send their children out to work. To illustrate that, when governments try to bring investments, support businesses, and make education mandatory at reasonable cost also, they will have an educated society, better employment opportunities, with higher incomes, which will contribute to poverty eradication and child labor as well. For instance, Singapore, which is a living example of success in eradication of poverty, has been transformed from a poor country into a country with great economic power worldwide with a negligible percentage of child labor. They achieved this by focusing on education plans and attracting investors. However, this may not be applicable to a very poor or war-stricken country because of the unsuitable environment for investment. In this case, governments must seek help from other countries, United Nations, and from child rights organizations such as United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF, to stabilize their security and economic situations which will contribute to reducing the percentages of poverty and child labor respectively. For instance, the United Nations assistance to Yemen is continuing to reduce poverty and the problems associated with it, especially child labor.

The second solution is enacting strict laws and legislation to criminalize child labor. Governments have to determine a legal age for employment and punish those who violate it: companies, traders, or families. In fact, most countries have laws for the minimum age of workers, but they mostly do not monitor whether these laws are actually applied or not. Strong governmental oversight makes people pay attention to these laws. To clarify that, most countries have legal age limit to work ranges between 13-18 years, children start with simple work which is safe and does not require much physical effort; then the work increases in difficulty as the age increases until the child becomes able to do any work at age 18, but most of these countries suffer from child labor. For example, Egypt and Germany, two countries that forbid child labor, have child labor laws, but they differ in their compliance with these laws. We can easily distinguish between the role of the two governments in pursuing law enforcement. While Egypt's streets are full of child workers, some of them selling napkins or roses and others work as porters in popular markets, Germany's streets may be

free of working children because of the rigorous law enforcement. Strict laws are shown by large fines on companies or traders who hire children and they may have the penalty to withdraw their work permits to stop them from working. There are also penalties imposed on parents if they force their children to work, these penalties range from financial fines to removing the children from the parents' care.

Raising awareness of the dangers of child labor and problems it may cause among people is an important step in eliminating this problem. Governments, child rights organizations, and media professionals must work hard to educate people about the dangers of the child labor; they must shed lights on this problem in the educational curriculum in schools and universities, awareness campaigns, and even through media. These educational works to raising the awareness levels among parents, children, and employers as well. In addition, this cooperation and concerted efforts contribute to eliminating this phenomenon because when people come to these campaigns, they will know some information; then when they see related topic, supports this information, in media or in their children textbooks, their faith of the dangers of child labor will increase and that will help decrease numbers of child workers. To illustrate that, when parents perceive the danger to their working children, they will look for other ways to increase their family's income away from child labor; because the safety of their children is more important than anything else. For instance, when the media highlights stories of children who have suffered from child labor will increase the interaction of the responsible parties to solve this problem. At the same time, this will increase the level of awareness among parents to keep their children away from this danger. To clarify that, when Oprah Winfrey, TV presenter, discusses the child labor, her speech will resonate significantly with people, especially if they are in an environment suffers of the child labor.

In brief, child labor is a big problem, which affects children and communities, needs effective solutions to eliminate. Poverty, war, and lack of awareness are main causes of the child labor which also has bad influences on many aspects; it affects child's psychology and general health, makes children more susceptible to harassments, and limits the level of community development as well. Overcoming poverty, making strict laws to criminalize child labor, and raising the awareness level of its dangers among people are practical solutions to eradicate this problem. In my opinion, the cornerstone of community success is the interest in raising children in a good and safe environment away from the risk, such as child labor, because children are our future.

Hidden on the top of the mountain

Sheila Hernandez
RW 60

He climbed and climbed but it seemed that the mountain never ended. The clouds at the top were very far all the time, as if he did not advance a single stretch on his way, and Jack realized that something was going wrong. He turned to see how far his boat was. It was a little boat with which he had crossed the seas to arrive at that mysterious island but he couldn't see it! Instead of a boat and the sea, there was a huge forest behind him.

"What's happening here?" he asked himself "Where is the sea? Where is my boat?"

Then, he took breath and in the face of that unexpected situation, he decided that the best option was to try to reach the top of the mountain. He started to climb again and this time he saw a very strange tree in the distance. It was a tall, with a thick log and silver leaves that shone as if they had their own light, so beautiful that Jack decided to approach it. Once there, he found that the tree had a hole in the middle of the log. It was so big that one person could cross through it, but when Jack was going to go inside, suddenly, a strange creature came out and shouted, "What are you doing? You can't go into my house as if you were my guest!"

"I'm sorry" answered. He was very surprised. The climber didn't know that the tree was a house and he couldn't believe what he was seeing. The creature was a mix between a monkey and a wolf, but he walked on two legs and instead of hair he had feathers.

Jack, incredulous, closed his eyes strongly and scratched them and when he opened again, neither the tree nor the creature were there. Furthermore, to his surprise, a dense fog started to surround the place. Once again he tried to see where the boat and the sea were but he could only see the white fog.

After this strange situation, he climbed more, trying to find an exit from that seemingly enchanted place. It was too difficult because he couldn't see anything. All hope of getting out of there was fading when, finally, he could distinguish a red light behind the cloud in the distance. It was intense and shining like a ruby and the brightness throbbed as if calling the stranger. Jack could not get rid of the desire to discover what was behind the fog, so he decided to follow the light.

He was getting closer and closer and each second became harder to advance, as if someone pulled him down again. The adventurer began to sweat because of the intense effort. He could almost touch the light with his hands, he could feel the intense power that was about to reach, and when finally he was going to achieve it...

"COME ON JACK! Wake up! It's time to go to school!"

My Life

Assuso Thiago
LS 10/20

My name is Assuso. I am 22 years old. I was born in Mato Grosso, Brasil but I live in São Paulo. I have a sister and a brother. I'm from the Xingu indigenous family. I'm really liking it. I'm here to learn English. I'll go back to Brasil and know to speak. However I miss the traditional Tapioca food and typical food from Brasil. I miss my family mainly my mother and friends, but as I am here in USA taking courses. In the future it will help me a lot to grow in life, and in the future I will go back to my indigenous peoples and help them who knows how, but I'll be prepared.



A Scary Experience

Maria Fernanda B. A. da Silva
RW 10/20

One night at my uncle's house, I was there with my cousins and my parents. We were getting ready to go to a restaurant, but before leaving, my aunt was locking the doors and the windows. She asked my cousin to turn off the lights in the pool area. Then we left the house for the restaurant. When we got back, my aunt saw the lights in the pool area were on, and we were all scared. We went into the house and worried that some robbers may still be in there. My uncle watched the garage camera. My aunt was once a cop, so she wanted to handle this situation by herself. She took a knife from the kitchen and went to see if there was someone in the house. She just wanted to scare the person away and then call the police. My father followed my aunt and carried a cell phone with the flashlight on. Finally, my uncle said he saw nothing in the camera. My cousin then remembered that he forgot to turn off the lights in the pool area. I say this was a very scary experience thanks to my cousin!

My Superhero

Enza Corinto
RW 42

People that change your life are superheroes. In the past, my superhero and I had many problems. In my adolescence, it was hard for me to obey the rules, trust her and agree on how to behave. It was very difficult for me at first, but eventually I learned how to obey rules, work hard, and return my love to her. She taught me more about life itself than any other person. My superhero, my mom, made me the woman that I am today.

Rules are like an impossible mission when it comes to adolescents. My mom had some rules in the house like knowing where I was, not missing school, and not having a boyfriend. Rules that at first cost me a lot. I came to think that everything she did was to ruin my life. I just wanted to be a rebel. As I got older, I realized the importance of obeying the rules. The rules stopped being something that I hated and began to be something that I appreciated. Obeying the rules taught me to be mature, and I realized that I had matured when I stopped being the girl who would fight over everything. I learned how to respect, to accept the rules, and I learned to establish a mature conversation if something did not seem fair to me.

While I was growing up, I learned to be thankful for my mom. I never thought that I would become my mother's friend. We were always so different. She always said that everything she did was for my own good, something that I never understood in my adolescence. For a while, we fought a lot over a boy, I liked him but she said he wasn't good for me, I was very upset, I thought she didn't want me to be happy. Then I found out that the boy was doing illegal actions, and in that moment I realized that she loved me and what she told me was for my own good. Thanks to her, I didn't end up dating a drug dealer. I felt how much she loved me, so I stopped being a rebel, instead I opened my heart, I started to trust in my mom and listen to her advice. I decided to make our lives happier by waiting for the right guy, and doing acts she could be proud of.

As a teenager, I had to learn to be responsible. My mom gave me some advice on responsibility like how to be a good student, always have a clean room, how to cook, how to grocery shop and more. My mom always pushed me to give my best, work hard and to follow my dreams. Hard work is my mom's second name. I have never met someone that can do all that my mom does. All her little assessments and her life examples taught me to work hard, and thanks to her example, today I am a woman capable of going to school full time, working 38 hours a week and being totally independent.

Slowly, I found my superhero and she became my best friend. She made me the woman that I am today. While I was growing into a woman I had the best role model. Obeying rules taught me to be a stronger and more mature person. Hard work made me a professional and independent woman. I also learned to trust my mom, and love her the way she loved me. Whenever I think about my mom, I think of a woman with super powers. I feel so lucky to call my mom my superhero.

Personal Essay

Andres Inchausti Acuña
GW

Imagine loving someone who does not love you back, even though they say they do. Spending a long time dedicating yourself to knowing and caring for that person, but after a while realizing that it is not meant to be. This person has the very best intentions for you, they care for your health, emotional problems and well-being. It might sound cliché but the problem was not her, it was me. Emotions are illogical and need screw ups for them to learn the lesson.

It all started six months ago. I began talking with this beautiful and funny girl just about two weeks prior from leaving the country. We “clicked” right away, our conversations were flowing like we have had known each other for years. Not only was she smart, but also different in a virtuous way. I liked her from the very start; however, there was a problem. She had a boyfriend. It was kind of a bummer but I had to respect the relationship and treat her just as a friend, which seemed perfectly fine at the start. Skip a few days ahead, I left the country to come to the US. My mind was obviously busy on trying to adapt to this new lifestyle. My first few weeks in Florida were hard, I was feeling lonely and overwhelmed. Nevertheless, there she was, not physically of course but through social media. She was wonderful; always asking how my day was going, also telling me about her day, and little by little we managed to become close friends. I felt comfortable talking to her. I told her about my personal problems, life experiences, friends, dark secrets, and so on. The first month was great. I had a friend that had my emotional back and I had hers. However, we were friends who treated each other as more than friends.

A milestone in the relationship was soon to occur. I had gotten the courage to tell her how I felt about her. I was utterly nervous. Not in a million years would I have guessed her response; she said that she felt the same way about me, which was shocking because at that point she still had a boyfriend. We did not know what to do at that point. We talked and decided to just go with the flow. We both love whatever we had because we were incredibly happy with it. Our relationship grew stronger as time went by. One day, when we were talking and she told me that she was coming to the US for Halloween. She was going to stay a few days in Orlando, which was only an hour and a half away from where I live. The day she came I went down to Orlando to go to a theme park together, she was with a couple of friends. Those friends could not know that we liked each other, so we limited ourselves as much as we could. We had a blast that night, it was incredible. However, it was just only

for a single night. After that we both went home happy but at the same time wanting more of what we had just experienced.

Christmas arrived, it was time for me to take a break, which meant that I was going to be able to go out with her again. Until this point we hadn't stopped talking for almost 6 months. It was a long trip but I made it home. My close friends were waiting at my house for me one hour before I got there. We played video games, talked about life and not soon after she came. Since I wasn't expecting her that same day, I was completely surprised. She stayed for a couple of hours. For the next couple of weeks, we managed to see each other every other day. I wanted to make a balance between being with her and being with my friends. We mostly hang out alone in each other houses, watching TV show, playing games, talking, some time we cooked but failed miserably. Those simple things were the things that one will actually remember. Venezuela is a pretty dangerous one. The crime rates are off the top, and streets gangs rule the entire night. So, going out to a bar or to the movie theater was off limits. We were fine with not doing anything out of the ordinary while spending time with each other.

December of 2017 was an emotional ride because we knew I was heading back at the end of the month; nevertheless, I do not regret a single thing. Spending time with her was magical and I am so happy to experience such a wonderful thing so early in my life. We didn't do extraordinary things, we just went to each other's houses to talk or maybe watch a movie. Those simple things were the things that one will actually remember. The dreaded day came; it was time for me to come back. It was hard saying goodbye to my friends and family again, but the hardest part was to say goodbye to an opportunity. I had never experienced the beauty of being in love, but sadly I had to let her go and I did.

You might wonder why I told you this love story. It is not the first nor last love story of this kind that you will hear. However, one thing that I can say is that I learned two lessons. The first lesson is that the best things in life come unexpectedly; one can never know when the next blessing in disguise will come. Finally, the second lesson is that life sometimes might not seem fair... at all. In this case, you can look at it in two different ways, you can find something or someone to blame for your unhappiness or you can look at it in a different way and try to find the silver lining.

Why do you practice sports?

Mariana Fernandez
RW 43

I could never imagine my life without sports. Sports have always been part of my life because I grew up in an area where these activities play an important role in the life of each person, but especially in me. This is due to the fact that in Argentina it is common that the majority of the people practice sports. This is because there are many types of sports that can be adapted to the abilities and preferences of people. Also, I still practice sport for many reasons that are very important in my life.

The first reason why I practice sports is thanks to my culture in Argentina. I was born in a society where the majority of the people try to practice different activities like sports, specially, children. When I was a child, I played sports at school and outside of school because my parents said that the sport activities were the best way to make friends, improve the communication skills, and disconnect the mind from the daily routine. In Mendoza, my province, it was common that after school, three days per week children went to a club to practice the sport that they chose while the parents were working. In my case, I chose rink hockey because I loved to roller skate, and also in the summer season during my childhood I went to the sports camps because I was so energetic and I did not like to stay at home. I preferred to go to the club to play with my friends.

The health also contributes to why I have been practicing sports. When I finished high school, I started to study physical education. There I learned about the health benefits that a person can develop through sports such as reduce the risk of heart diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and metabolic syndrome. The sports also helps us to maintain a healthy weight because when we exercise, our body burns the calories faster than we consume daily, and also the sports activities performed correctly help to prevent injuries and strengthen bones, muscles, and joints. Other health benefits that I learned about in the university was that if we practice sports, we activate the defenses of our body and strengthen our immune system, which help to prevent any diseases because although our defenses decrease while we exercise, after exercising our body produces twice as many immunological defenses as we lost.

The development of psychological and intrapersonal skills is another reason why I practice sports. The stress and depression are examples of the problems that we can avoid when we practice sports. This is due to the great production and release of endorphins that our body produces while we practice physical activities. That is important because the endorphins regulate respiratory activity,

induce sleep, and also after practicing sports, they produce the effect in the hypothalamus to provide relaxation in our body. Also, we can develop skills like communication, empathy, and respect because when we practice sports, we are in contact with other people like coach, teammates, referee, and sometimes opponents. That interaction makes us face situations like discussions of which we learn to dialogue with others. I think that these skills are so important because these are the basic abilities that we need to make strong relationships with other people.

Last but not least my friends are the most significant factor why I practice sports. During all my life, I have practiced a lot of sports like rink hockey, swimming, soccer, handball, field hockey, and volleyball. The sports gave me the opportunity to share many activities such as camps, activities, championships, and trips with my friends. Also, in all those sports, I met the best friends that I currently have, those friends who are always with me, and support me in all of my projects. Also, I met people that hurt me, but also I learned from them because they taught me to forgive, and to be strong in different situations.

All those factors are the reason I still practice sports because the sports taught me to develop as a person. Sports have given me the possibility of meeting wonderful people and helping me to develop many skills, like concentration, communication, empathy, and respect. Also, sports give me unforgettable experiences which motivate me every day to work hard to achieve my goals. Finally, sports have taught me the most important phrase: "There are people who strive one day and are good, there are other people who try one year and they are excellent, but there are others who try all their life and they are essential." I would like to be like the last type of person because there is nothing more boring than having a life without obstacles to overcome.

What can one do for love? And what can they do for money?

Anai Valverde & Sheila Hernandez
RW 60

The story we are going to tell is about love and money, also about lies, betray, jealousy, fame and a blend of related concepts that lead us to a terrible catastrophe. The cover of the newspaper confirmed in December 25th, 2012: "Tragic story of loveness: Myra Miller dies at the age of 29, thrown from London Hilton building by Don Campbell, the leader of Campbell Tech." Poor young and lovely Myra, how could something like this happen to her?

Don, a rich and handsome 41-year-old man, was arrested and sentenced to 50 years in jail for murder and also deprived from the custody of his young son who had not yet turned one year old. No one could do anything for Myra anymore, but at least this criminal would pay for his actions and his son would be safe. That was at least what everybody thought, but the reality was completely different.

Myra Miller and Ken Adams were not just lovers, but also scammers. They wanted to make a lot of money and had Don as their target. They thought this man wouldn't be easy to manipulate, since he was an experienced leader of such an important company. Myra and Ken followed him to Chicago to try to find any weakness of the man and finally, she seduced him to spend a night together. A lot of champagne and some dirty female tricks were enough to make him confused. But he was wise and careful and decided not to repeat the situation.

But something else happened some days after this event. Ken discovered in February 11th, 2011 that Don was doing business with Alex Turner. He was a 26-year-old successful business man and Don's cousin. Moreover, he was a womanizer who liked to spend money and was asking for 10 million dollars from his elder cousin to start his own business. Immediately, Myra and Ken decided to take advantage of the situation and change the objective for an easier one. Not only would they try to scam to Don, but also his inexperienced cousin Alex.

They discovered that Alex had to go to an important business event in New York on August, so they decided to try to seduce him at the end of the meeting. Myra waited for him in a dark alley near the entrance of his hotel, pretending to be an elegant and attractive prostitute. The young playboy did not hesitate to take her to his room, where everything happened, and this event became the beginning of his end. Myra received one million dollars from Alex that night and after that, she, as a good actress, managed to make Alex fall in love with her using all kind of tricks – some that you can imagine and some that you cannot.

It only took one month to make Alex crazy for her. While she was trying to plan all this, Myra realized that she was pregnant. She met Ken again to talk about the plan because she couldn't keep hiding the baby. Of course, the baby was Ken's and not Don's. The night they spent together he was too drunk to have the possibility to get Myra pregnant, but he couldn't even know it.

The scammers immediately knew how to take advantage of the situation. Don couldn't know if the son was his because he would not be able to remember the night with Myra in Chicago. They knew that Don would do every possible thing to maintain his image and status. So the following month, Myra met Don to tell him what happened about "their" baby. After this, Don had no choice but to marry Myra just to avoid a scandal. The preparation for the wedding began as soon as possible because with such advanced pregnancy, they couldn't wait much longer.

As she couldn't hide anymore, Alex found out and confronted her about it. She decided to go to New York to explain things. She told him that she knew the baby wasn't his, but she couldn't remember who the father was. Alex, being in love, gave her \$1 million to take care of the unborn child. Myra, having taken \$2 million from Alex, made a deposit to the bank account she shared with Ken.

Two months later, on March 2012, the wedding took place. A lot of people were there and every single one could tell that the couple was not in love. Just 2 months after the wedding, Myra was found dead outside the London Hilton, and everyone was shocked, except for Ken, who knew the plan. After hearing that tragic news about his beloved one, Alex was so depressed that he threw himself under a train in London and he died.

Following the plan, Ken went to the police to prove that the murderer was Don. He told them about Alex and Myra's love, saying that love was the reason why Don pushed Myra from the top of the building and he had been arrested.

The end of the story (the real one) is that Myra faked her death and Ken got the documents to take care of the baby. Alex left much of his inheritance for Myra, the love of his life, so that she and Ken were able to leave far away to live a luxurious life with their baby.

Monica Pessoa

Monica Pessoa
LS 10/20

My name is Monica. I am 33 years old and I am a history teacher. I was born in Belém, in the state of Pará, Brazil. I am a doctoral student in history at the State University of Santa Catarina in the city of Florianópolis, being part of the Center for African Studies. I research about Griots, storytellers from West Africa. I really love being here in the University of Florida to learn English and further study about my research in history.



Elyor Mahkamov

Elyor Mahkamov
LS 10/20

Hello, My name is Elyor Mahkamov. I'm 20 years old. I'm student in the ELI 10/20 class. I was born in Moscow Russia. I have two siblings, one brother and one sister. My favorite colors are black, blue, and green. One thing if someone dares me to do something like a joke, I will get serious and do it. That's my story.

The Happiest Moments in My Life

Barbara Muniz
RW 10/20

All the times that my family is together are happy times for me. We are very happy, and we like to meet together all the time. Everything is a party. We always meet together at my grandparents' house for a snack in the afternoon. My grandfather always plays the flute or saxophone. All the cousins meet and always have the subject to talk about, even if they see each other almost every day. For me these are the happiest moments.

Why did I choose Gainesville and UF instead of other places?

Jorge Mura
RW 43

Since I was in primary school, I have been interested in learning languages, other cultures, listening to songs and watching movies in English. I always listened to my parents talking about how important it was to learn and speak in English as a second language. They expressed how it would become a very important tool to succeed abroad and even in life. My parents were very good students, but my mother was a better student. She was an eager to learn, but unfortunately neither of my parents could go to college. My parents were poor, but; despite being poor, they tried to give me and my brothers the best education they could afford. By the time I got my major in education at the University of Santiago de Chile, they were proud and happy for me. Now I that am 42 years old, and life goes on; I must try to do what my parents told me about when I was a child. For this reason, I did not think twice when I was given the opportunity to apply to the University of Florida.

Even though, I knew that I was leaving my family, friends, and all my life back in Chile, the main cause that leads me to the determination to apply at UF was that I had the chance to live in my sister in law's house. She and her husband have lived in Gainesville for several years. The fact that they live here in Gainesville has helped me very much, because I did not need to be worried about renting an apartment or paying bills. I did not have any scholarship to study at UF because I am paying tuition by myself, they have been very helpful and very important in making my decision much easier. I saved and worked hard for several years in Chile, and to be honest, it is a little bit expensive to live here, so for this reason I decided to apply at UF.

The opportunity to improve my English skills is another reason why I decided to apply to UF. In Chile, a low percentage of people speak English because we have a huge deficit of English teachers and English as a subject at school is mandatory only from 5th grade, but in countries such as Sweden, it is mandatory since first grade, and it is considered almost as important as mathematics. That is a significant difference and makes a huge distinction on what a student from a developed country can receive as second language education. According to the EPE, which stands for "English Proficiency English", Chile ranks 42nd in the world ranking below 71 other countries. Since Chilean people have a low quality of English, I wanted to apply in the best university in the state of Florida due to the good reputation of the University and the intensive nature of the ELI program.

I have a major in Education in English as a second language, but unfortunately, I did not have the chance to work as a teacher in Chile because of the low salaries and lack of opportunities. For this

reason, I wanted to come and study here in UF as it will help make my resume more attractive and interesting when I attend to a job interview back in Chile. I believe that having a better resume and where it appears that I have studied at UF will give me confidence to face new challenges and will open me doors that in the past were closed for. I will be well prepared to contribute in the future to my country as a teacher. Because studying in a foreign country, and in addition in a university well ranked in United States will improve myself as a competitive candidate for future job positions.

Furthermore, the quality of life here in Gainesville is a significant factor in my decision. Even though I mentioned that live here is expensive, I cannot compare it with the quality of life in Chile and even in South America. Things as basic and common sense, like keeping the streets clean and coexisting with the culture of caring for the city where I live and with the culture of recycling are things that make a huge difference. These two months that I have been here in Gainesville I have to confess that just walking through the campus, and to be able to look at up, see the blue sky and clouds almost touching my nose, and breathe pure air is a nice and comfortable experience. In Chile, we have a huge problem with pollution, especially in Santiago, where factories do not have restrictions to function every day, contaminating and making Santiago, the capital; a smoggy city. Because of the smog issue, people get sick more often, and respiratory problems are a main problem. For this reason, after of being a capital citizen for so many years, I chose Gainesville and its nice weather during the year. This is because it is the perfect place to improve my quality of life, by living in a clean city that will keep my respiratory issues away.

Therefore, despite of what I left behind in Chile, I am sure the decision to study English at University of Florida and moving to Gainesville have been the right thing to do in terms of emotional and economic stability. Because at the beginning you need emotional content, every time home sickness reminds me the people I left behind, and that you would like to spend time or share experiences. On the other hand, United State gave me the opportunity to study in an important university. I realized the program is intense and allows me to improve my English skills, and at the same time I noticed the good quality of the teachers, so I cannot lose this opportunity to be the best student I can be, and in the future be a great teacher, provide my experience and knowledge gained as an international student, and encourage my future students to follow their dreams and conquer them because it is never late to do it.

This Present Almost Perfect Love

Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas
RW 51

I have loved certainly but I have not done it in this way,
This manner in which people see two bodies but we know it is one soul,
This style of life in which we walk together in different spaces,
This connection that our eyes can read our thoughts,
This passion is profoundly attuned and an amusing hallmark.

I have breathed, yes, but not delightfully like nowadays,
I respired in nonsense ambiences, I was there but I really was not there,
I was imperfect as a rainbow without colors,
Actually, I remember when I gasped I was exhausted,
At times, roaming alone in a beautiful landscape.
You are the warm wind that lights my being up.

I have dreamed, off course, but left alone in a lane,
It was a gloomy picture, despite that, I moved on,
Step by step, I built my castles,
A few of which were flights of fancy.
I don't mind, if we are in a crowded city or in a serene beach,
You are my companion and when we entwine our hands,
I know, I arrive at placid home, I live my authentic dream!

This poem is dedicated to my husband Jorge for our anniversary on May.

Gainesville

Mohammad Farhan
RW 20

Gainesville is my favorite city. I love many beautiful landscapes that are found in Gainesville everywhere. In January, the weather is very cool and beautiful. In summer, the weather is very hot. People in Gainesville are very nice. When I need to find a place, I just ask someone, and they help me. The people in Gainesville are friendly. Gainesville has the best English language institution. It is the ELI, and there are many excellent teachers. Last year, my cousin was at this ELI, and he told me to come to ELI because they teach English the best. I'm happy because I study here.



Akshay Patel
LS 10/20

Akshay Patel

Hello everyone! How are you? I am happy because this is the first time I send my self introduction to any other person. My name is Akshay. I come from India and India is a very big country and Indian people speak fourteen languages. I am 20 years old. My birthday is August 29,1997. My favorite color is black. Traveling is my one of my hobbies. I like watching TV and sports game, and my favorite game is cricket and my favorite player is M.S. Dhoni. I am recently come to Gainesville, there's lots of people everywhere you look. I am currently at ELI because i don't understand English. I have very nice family. I have one brother and he is 22 years old, and he is a businessman. My sister is 26 years old, and she is married. My father is a businessman, and my mother is a housewife. I love my family. Thank you so much.

My Classmates

Abdulrahman Almaymouni
RW 20

My classmates in Reading and Writing class are wonderful. Omar is my best friend. Ali is really good with me. Bader helps me when I need him. Abdullah sits with me when I'm tired. Mohammad is a smart student. I feel happy when I see Abdulrahman. When I'm late or absent, Alanazi calls me. I see them every day in Reading and Writing class. Khadija is smart, and her brother is in the same class. His name is Alanazi, Abdulrahman. In conclusion, they are the best classmates.

Marian Quinones

Marian Quinones
LS 10/20

- I am Marian Quinones. I am 30 years old.
- I am from Venezuela, the country with the most beautiful beach.
- I am an accountant, and I work for Ford Motor Company in Assembly in Venezuela.
- My favorite hobby and sport is swimming in the ocean.
- I like animals, but one of my favorite animals is dogs.
- I love my family moments because they are the best moments of my life!



Problem for International Students

Khalid Alqurashi
RW42

What do you feel if you studying without problem? International students come to the U.S from all over the world. It is a great experience, but sometimes international students have problems. One of this issues is homesickness when international students live far away from their families and friends. Other problem is international students need to spend extra money in U.S especially on a house. Other issue when international students come at first time, they find it difficult to communication in some necessary dealings. To solve these problems, international students should make friend, look for cheap house, and prepare some sentences before they come to U.S to deal with dealing such as hotels and drivers.

Making friends is very important for international students. Making friends make foreign students feel as if they are with their family. Foreign students can find a friend in activities of school or neighbors or classmates. When foreign students hang out with friends, which give foreign students exciting and fun that help international students to forget missing their family.

Looking for a cheap house or apartment is good solution to reduce spending for international students. Foreign students should ask people who lived before in city to help them to find a cheap house. Houses that are not near to the university and downtown are cheaper than houses near to the university. Living with a roommate in an apartment is one of solution to find cheap apartment for foreign students.

International students should prepare the most important sentences for crucial transactions or emergency situations when they first arrive. Especially when international students don't know how to speak English. Writing these sentences in an international student's phone are good idea. International students should focus on the most important sentences, such as sentences for reserving a hotel and immigration transactions and transactions with drivers.

International students face some troubles when they come to U.S, like homesickness, spending a lot of money to rent house, and difficult communication at first. International students should make a friend, looking for a cheap house, and prepare important sentences before they come. These solutions may help international students to a void these problems.

The Best English Program

Ali Alharbi
RW 20

The ELI program is one of the best English programs in the U.S. I like ELI program because it makes me learning English fun and easy to understand. There are students from all around the world. It gives me the opportunity to make friends from countries that I didn't know they were existed. Teachers at the ELI are very friendly and positive. The way they teach English is unique, and anyone can understand it very easily because it's fun. One of other reasons I like ELI is because of the location. Gainesville is a small city that has the university of Florida at its heart. I like the atmosphere because it motivates me to study. Furthermore, the food here is very good, and there are a lot of restaurants you can choose from. The ELI program provides students with a lot of different activities that improve our English significantly. In conclusion, the ELI program is the best place to learn English because it is very helpful and easy for the mind to digest!

Pamela Alba

Pamela Alba
LS 10/20



Hi everyone! My name is Pamela, and I am a student in ELI level 20. I want to tell you about myself. My place of birth is Miami, US; but my place of growth is Cochabamba, Bolivia. I have 4 siblings: 3 sisters and 1 brother. My favorite series is Friends, but my favorite actors are Luke Evans and Jason Momoa. My favorite type of music is from the 80's or 90's. My favorite soccer team is Wilstermann, and that's why my favorite colors are red and blue. I like to know places with many trees, waterfalls, rivers, lakes and a lot of nature. Here I am in "Los Molinos" Cochabamba, Bolivia. I went in January to walk there. This place is amazing because it has everything I like to experience. Finally I can tell you that I love my life, I miss my siblings and my father, and I'm happy that you know me a little more. Nice to meet you!

Sixteen Year Old Drivers

Mohammed Alsubaie
RW 42

One million and two hundred people die each year from driving accidents. People don't understand the problem, and some people don't think that it is problem. They say this is the life cycle. Some researchers proved about 60% of this huge number is because of sixteen year old drivers. They cause a lot of accidents. The sixteen year old drivers don't have enough patience and responsibility. There are some solutions for this danger. The solutions are stricter laws, a network of buses, and education of adolescents about the risk.

The first solution is strict laws. Strict laws include high fines or prison. When adolescent drive his car up 70 miles in highway, we give him a fine. when adolescent running a red light or hitting someone, we send him to prison. When we apply the strict laws, we reduce reckless actions. Additionally, when parents don't take enough responsibility toward their children, we need to apply strict laws on them such as fines or carry all damages.

Another solution for this problem is to build a network of buses. Sometimes the adolescents need to drive cars. they want to go to school or hospital. When we build network of buses, we reduce the accidents that due to sixteen year old drivers and we can save them. Also, buses network are effective in reducing jams.

The last solution for this danger is education of adolescents about the risk. We try to use the social media for education adolescents. We educate the adolescents about respect of the road, and driving rules. Some adolescents don't know about dangers of driving car, and effect of this danger in their life. Some adolescents like to drive cars for learn driving. We try to find safety place for learn driving, and try to follow safety procedures. Also, we try to awareness parents about danger of driving car in their children.

When adolescents drive cars, they cause a lot of accidents and make a lot of reckless actions. The adolescents don't have patience with traffic jams. There are many solutions for this problem. We need to apply the rules. We try to find enough from mass transportation. We also try to educate adolescents about this danger. When we follow these steps, society promotes reducing this danger.

You can rescue a bottle with the cure for cancer or your brother. Which do you choose?

Ibrahim Alkhaibari
GW

There is no shortage of debate about whether it is better to rescue a large number of people from cancer or help one person because of kinship. According to the Burden of Cancer Worldwide, "The number of new cancer cases will rise to 22 million within the next two decades" and cancer has become an essential global issue in last decade, and it has threatened human existence. In my opinion, if I were able to choose one of them, I would definitely choose a bottle with the cure for cancer. I strongly believe that it is more advantageous to give priority to the public interest over self-interest because cancer has become a crucial issue facing human being, and the presence of a cure will restore hope to people in life anew.

The first important reason is that cancer has a major impact on society across the world; the number of people who are currently living with this disease has increased dramatically. Furthermore, with scientific progress people who have cancer are still struggling to find an effective treatment since there is no an available cure in the presently. Despite this, there are some insurance corporations that take advantage of this point by increasing the prices of medicines because they do not care about the safety of these individuals; they care only about financial profit. My own experience is a compelling example of this. I had a friend in high school, my friend was from India, and I used to hang out with him a lot because he was my classmate. One day, he told me that his aunt passed away because of cancer. In fact, his aunt died because his aunt could not afford to pay the insurance company. That was my primary reason why I tended to the public interest over self-interest.

The second significant reason is that the presence of cancer treatment will spread happiness among people who have suffered of cancer for a while, and it will open opportunity's door to them to practice their life normally again. As is known, people who have cancer live in isolation, frustration, and anxiety because they always think death hovers around them. Consequently, these things essentially convert their life to hell, and their desire to build family, study at university, and work in a social environment disappears with time. That was my second cause behind giving priority to the public interest over self-interest.

On the other hand, some people claim that cancer is like any other diseases such as colds, sore throat, and asthma; people can live with it in peace. Furthermore, they also think that there

is no illness called cancer because most of them are not educated individuals. However, the government institutes should take serious steps toward this subject in order to educate people about the dangers of this disease. Therefore, the communication with people who deny the idea of existence of cancer will be easier than before.

In the final analysis, these are the most significant reasons behind why I decided to stand with the public interest over self-interest. Nevertheless, I sometimes stand surprised when hearing success stories in different fields nowadays about people who were almost out of life because of cancer. That means people are able to overcome this illness if they have belief, determination, and persistence in the possibilities of life.

The Old Life

Saud Aloneizi
GM 51/RW 43

Life have changed tremendously so far, everything used to be difficult to deal with such as the communication and the transportation. In the old days there were not a lot of technology like today, phones were really expensive and rare, people would get surprised when they had seen someone with a phone, they had no idea what the phone was. Day by day the world started to develop people went rushing to educate and learn how to develop everything they see. My dad told me, in the 1980's they went to travel from 3 cities within 7 days because the transportation was difficult and expensive while these days people travel the whole world within 11 hours, which makes our life easier. In my opinion, living in today's time is much better than the senior days. Nowadays life is much easier with the transportation communication and every other thing including life style, even ways to get food. For example, Uber eats serves you the food you want till your apartment door, Lyft app can pick you up from anywhere and drop you off to where you want, these things array that now days is frequently easier without even exerting effort or any paradoxically stressing attainment.

The first time when I gave driving lessons to my sister

Eleny Perozo
RW 10/20

The first time when I gave driving lessons to my sister, it was funny. My sister and I went out to take my brother to some friend's house, and on the way back my little sister asked me to teach her how to drive. We went to an empty lot and there I gave her the first driving class. She did it excellently. She managed to drive without problems. Then we went to a street where there were not many cars and she also handled very well.

Gainesville

Andrea Ferrari Mejias
RW 20

Gainesville is an excellent and beautiful city. It's a small city and everything is close like the markets, shopping places, and the university. The best reason why I like Gainesville is the weather because it's sometimes cold or hot (???why is this good?). I love that there are trees, flowers, plants, and animals. I like to see the squirrels running in everywhere, and I take lots of pictures. It's a perfect place to study because there is one of the best universities in Florida, UF. If you don't speak English, the ELI is an excellent institute. You can also see people from all over the world, and they are very nice. The truth is that Gainesville has many beautiful things. Because of all those reasons that I really love Gainesville.

My Favorite Movie

Luisana Osorio
RW 10/20

My favorite movie is 50 First Date. It's about a woman who has an accident and it affects her memory. In the movie, it is always the same day for her. A man knows her and tries to win her over every day, but she always forgets. Until one day he makes the decision to make her remember him.

In the passage of time, they decide to get married and travel to the Atlantic. One day, she wakes up and does not know where she is until she sees the video that her husband makes every day, and when she goes out to see where she is, she is in a boat with her family.

I like this movie because it is about a man who is trying to win the love of his life every day.

The Best Way to Travelling

Afrah Albalawi
RW 42

These days people need to travelling and spend a good time especially in summer vacation. Some of them travelling by airplane and the others travelling by different ways. For example, my friend travelling to Orlando by the bus. But I am travelling by Uber I have a good experience a bout which is good way to travelling in United States and some important facts that will need it to help you chose. Also, I will mention some advantages and disadvantages to travelling by the bus or Uber.

One factor is privet and public transportation, you must know how much the cost for Uber and bus, and what is more comfortable, and the limit sped for each one and the faster and easier way to traveling.

Some of types of transportation are good for us. But some of them seems bad, in travelling by bus you cannot feel relaxed, and because it is public transporting you must follow some rules like stay quiet and you cannot use your cellphone and watch videos or talking with someone in laud voice. On other hand in travelling by Uber you are allowed to do what you want like. Watching videos or talking with you friends on the cellphone it is accepted because Uber is private transportation.

In the United State of America, the public transportation is cheaper than the private transportation like Uber or Taxi. However, when you travelling by Uber to Orlando city you will pays about 200 or maybe more it depends on the time and the day because it is some days different from weekend days it will be more expensive in weekend days. But in public transportation is cheap, in the bus you will pays about \$20 to \$30 for one person.

When you want to travelling, you would be feel more comfortable and relaxed and siting in good sit. In public transportation like the bus you cannot feeling comfortable because it is crowded with people and a lot of boys and children. This will make noise and disturbance to others passengers. In contract in Uber you will feel relaxed and comfortable because you are the only passenger with driver.

Travelling to Orlando by Uber batter than travelling by the bus, because Uber has many advantages like it is faster and you will feel more comfortable and it is easier way to travelling. But in the buss, there is no options like Uber. Also, it is noisy place because it is crowded with many passengers and you must follow some of the roles like do not talking in your cellphone also bus it is cheaper then Uber. In Uber you have ability to do what you want and you can feel relaxing and enjoy. I found it easy to traveling by Uber and I prefer it because I want to enjoy.

Student of the Moment



Talal Bin Ramal
LS 10/20

My name is Talal Bin Rimal. I am from Saudi Arabia. Every year we celebrate Eid AlFitr. This is the picture in the Eid. We celebrate with the family and everyone. We celebrate for one week. All people when they meet each other says (Eid Mobark).

Caio Augusto Ushikoshi Vilela Pomella

Caio Augusto Ushikoshi Vilela Pomella
LS 10/20

My name is Caio Ushikoshi. I'm 18 years old and I love this age. I was born in São Paulo, one of the most populous cities in the world, but after 4 months of life I lived in Bahia the rest of my life. It is a very hot state of Brazil and with many beaches scattered along the coast. My city is called Ilhéus which is 482 years old. It is a tourist city due to the beautiful beaches and its history. When I was a baby, I felt I was very quiet because I did not know how to cry. When I was a teenager I did not have much luck and ended up collecting six scars on my face, each at a different age.

I really like extreme sports and women, I admire the beauty of each one of them. I'm very social and outgoing most of the time. I want to go to psychology school because I am very curious about the human mind and the behaviors we choose in certain situations. I love meeting new cultures and new places. I love listening to rap / trap music.



The Event that Changed My Life

Susan Perez
RW 42

What was the event that changed your life? Was it your wedding? Was it the birth of your child? Or maybe it was your first job? For me, it was living by myself. When I lived with my mother, she was in charge of everything. She washed our clothes, she cooked our meals, she bought the groceries and she paid the bills. I did nothing on my own. Living alone teaches you how take care of yourself, how to manage your money and also how to be a better person.

Taking care of yourself is more difficult that you think. The first months were a disaster for me; I got sick, I was eating poorly and I was going to work late. While I was living with my mom, she got the dinner ready for me, but when you live alone you have to cook by yourself if you don't want to eat fast food every day. I worked 8am to 5pm and it usually took me 90 minutes to get home. At home, I was hungry and tired, without the desire to cook. I had to learn to be organized; I tried to cook on the weekend for Monday through Wednesday. Then during the week, when I was exhausted, I didn't have to cook. Also, I bought groceries on the weekend, and then during the week, if I got hungry, I could make a snack. I learned to be responsible, if I wanted to be successful I had to change my priorities. For example, when I was living with my mom, most Sundays I woke up very late, but now I try to take advantage of my time and do the chores that I couldn't do in the week.

The most difficult part for me was learning to manage my money. Before it was easy. When I needed money to buy something, my mom always gave it to me and I never paid a bill. However, when you work and you live by yourself, you must manage your money because the bills come every month: you must pay the water, electricity, Wi-Fi, the Apps on your phone, everything! It was difficult for me because I never noticed how expensive life is. I was embarrassed: at 23 years old I didn't know how much a loaf of bread cost and how much a bottle of oil was. I created a spread sheet to manage my money. This sheet contained income, fixed expenses, variable expenses and savings. The spread sheet helped me to visualize how much money I have to spend on social activities, how much money I should save if I want to buy something expensive and how many months it would take.

Living by myself made me a better person. I am embarrassed to tell you this, but I didn't appreciate everything that my mom did. I couldn't understand my mom when she yelled at me and ordered me to do my chores, to help her. Now I understand her point of view. This change made our relationship improve.

Through thick and thin, I learned to live by myself. It wasn't easy but every day I tried to be my best. Now I look in the past and I'm really happy I decided to live by myself. I learned a lot. I learned to take care of myself. I know more about how to manage my money and my relationship with my mom improved 100%. Now we talk like adults, not like children. I recommend to live by yourself as soon as it's possible, live this experience!

Friends

Ayesha Buali
RW 42

Some people have many friends, and others only have few close friends. Some people are shy, and want to have more friends, but they are too shy to meet more friends. Others are more outgoing and prefer to have many friends. But it doesn't matter if you have a few choose friends or many friends, because all you need is the relationship.

With friends or a few close friends, I can still enjoy activities with them. We can go to the park with our children, visit each other and go to each other party, like birthday or finish school.

Also, I can share my concerns, worries or problem in my life. For example, when i am tied my friends can take of me. When I have few or many friends are do something.

In addition, I can rely on my friends to help when I need them, some time when I get sick my friends take care of my children. Also when I have to moved a new home they help me to. Both of them few close or many friends.

If you have few close friends or many friends, you can do a lot of activities together and we can be happy and comfortable, relationship help us make friends.

The Reasons Why I Like ELI

Rui Huang
RW 20

I study at the ELI. The ELI is UF's language institution. It is a wonderful place to study. I like to come to ELI school because it has a beautiful landscape. When you walk on campus, you will see the bright colors of flowers and green trees. Every morning, I go to the classroom. On my way, I always hear the birds singing and see squirrels run happily. The ELI requires discipline. There is no age limit to study at the ELI, but if you need to study English language, you must come to school every day. Wherever you go on campus, you always see different colors of students, and they speak in English. ELI has a lot of good teachers and office workers. If you have questions, or you need help, they help you in time. Every week, they have different activities, which let you have a good time. ELI gives many students new lives and helps them to have a better future.

Effects of living in the United States

Ksymena Piwońska
RW 43

Since I moved to the United States a lot have changed in my life. My everyday routine is different, my habits, and behavior. Back in Poland, I used to have very organized and healthy way of living. I used to do yoga every day, prepare food to school, and go to work every second day. Before coming to the United States, I had never before in my life lived on my own. That is why the situation in which I am currently is new for me and has changed the way I live drastically. The culture of the United States is different from Europe in many ways. For example, we eat more vegetables and less meat than American people. What is more, we prefer walking or riding a bike than using a car. Because of the fact that European way of living is healthier, my personal effects of living in the United States are weight loss, constant tiredness, irregular sleep cycle, and stress.

At first, I was surprised by the fact that two weeks after moving to the United States I lost 5 pounds. Right now, two months later I weigh almost 20 pounds less than when I arrived. As I mentioned before, in Poland, I used to eat very healthily and have balanced and nutritious diet. I discovered that even though in the United States I can still buy plenty of "healthy snacks", such as granola with sweetened yoghurt or smoothies from frozen fruits, most of them contains way too much sugar as well as other unnecessary and unhealthy ingredients. On the contrary, in my home country, I could buy truly healthy snacks and meals everywhere, even in my school's cafeteria. My favorite snacks I used to buy almost every day were freshly made "one day" carrot juice and Kaiser rolls with vegetables. What is more, Poland established a law two years ago that banned sweetened or unhealthy food from schools or workplaces. Here it is harder to find something that will be nutritious and won't ruin my budget. That is why I hardly ever buy anything on campus, and try to prepare meals at home. Since cultural differences between the US and Europe are visible also in cuisine, I find it more challenging to cook tasty dinner or even lunch, because I cannot find key ingredients. The reason is because most of them simply doesn't exist in the U.S, and even if they do, they taste so different that the final effect is far from intended. What is more, the most important factor for my diet is the number of calories I consume. For some reason, food in the United States that I consider good and healthy for me despite the same size makes me full very quickly. It never happened in my home country, and now I have discovered that I eat here half of my regular portion, and I cannot eat more. This probably led to calories deficit and I am losing weight despite eating as much food as I used to before.

Another effect of living in the United States has on my life is constant tiredness. The most important reason for being tired is calories deficit I mentioned before. Because I don't eat enough calories, my body has less energy. And since a student's life is hard and tiring even when you eat well, I have never felt as tired as I feel now. Beside the influence of diet, I start classes every day at noon. This means that when I go to bed at 11 p.m., I have 12 hours before I need to wake up. Even though sleeping that much won't make me less tired, and even can have the opposite effect, I still do it, because I love sleeping. What is more, my 12 hours long sleep is interrupted almost every day thanks to my roommates who prefer partying to sleeping. In Poland, I used to live in very quiet and calm neighborhood without loud music or parties. What is more, my house had really thick walls, so it was almost impossible to hear my neighbors, even when they were arguing. Here, my apartment complex has walls thin as paper, so sometimes I can hear when people next door are talking. Poor diet and low quality of sleep combined are the main reason why am I so tired all the time.

In addition to weight loss and tiredness, irregular sleep cycle is another significant effect living in the United States has on my life. In Poland, I used to go to sleep every day at 10 p.m. and wake up at 6 a.m. Thanks to that, I was always full of energy, and my organism was used to early hours. I didn't always start classes at the same time, but if I woke up earlier, I had more time to prepare food for school or do homework. Here, in the United States, the situation is different. Even though I begin classes every day at the same time my sleep cycle is very irregular. For example, if I have to prepare a group project or I simply want to meet with friends I go sleep later. I think the main reason is that in Poland I had a car so even after meetings or parties I was able to get home quickly and go to sleep on time. Here I don't have a car, so I have to use buses for transportation. Since my apartment complex is quite far from the UF, sometimes it takes over an hour to go home. What is more, I finish classes late compared to the usual 3 p.m. in Poland. Here, my last class finishes at 5 p.m., so it doesn't really leave much time for anything after classes. That's why I can't have standard sleeping hours. This irregular cycle makes my organism unbalanced and makes me very tired during the day.

Last but not least, an enormous amount of stress is a very significant effect on my life that living in the United States has. First of all, before moving here, I had never before lived on my own. Because of that, this situation is new for me, and a lot of things stress me out. For example, even though in Poland I often helped my mother with groceries or going shopping, I hardly ever had to plan shopping from total zero. Now, when I go shopping, I often forget to buy basic things such as flour or oil, because my mother used to buy it in big containers, so there wasn't need to buy it frequently. Here I have to remember every single item I have in my fridge when going shopping. What is more, my

mother used to have a clear routine for cleaning, so I always knew which day I should vacuum my room and which day clean windows. Here, the size of my apartment differs from the one in Poland, so I have some struggles with organizing my cleaning schedule because the one I used to do doesn't work here. It doesn't look like a stressful thing, but for me it is important. My apartment in Poland used to be so clean that it was an almost sterile area. I am seriously afraid of roaches and other bugs that love dirt, so I want to have my room as clean as possible. On the other hand, I don't want to be oversensitive and wash my carpet every two days so it will take me more time to adjust to this new situation and get in the habit of scheduled cleaning.

To conclude, weight loss, tiredness, irregular sleep cycle, and stress are the main effects living in the U.S has on my life. I have been living here for two months, so I can't say whether those effects will be constant or not. What I can say for sure is that I am already slowly adjusting to living here. That's why probably after a couple of months I won't be able to see a difference between my "old" and "new" life. Nevertheless, I think that if I ever have to move somewhere again, it won't be so hard and stressful. After all, the first move is always the hardest.

The ELI

Khaled Alsubaei
RW 20

Someone asked me why I like the ELI. The ELI is a long-standing institution, and many students from different countries graduated from the ELI. They are now successful in their lives, and they achieved what they wanted. There are many highly qualified teachers with great experiences. In addition, there are many activities (that) students can have the benefit to learn English as soon as possible. There are many students from around the world, and they come to learn and achieve their ambitions for their lives at the ELI. Our teachers are nice, and they respect the students. The teachers are role models for students, so the students love them. ELI has a good education system, and it is a strict rule. For example, if students are absent or they don't attend the class, they will be counted on hours of absence. There is a certain limit, so if students have too many absences they have to go back to their countries. I like a strict rule because it makes students take their education more seriously. In conclusion, these are the reason why I love ELI.

Homesickness with International Students

Naif Abuhadi
RW 42

When in Rome, do as Romans do. However, most of the international students find difficulty to live far away from their hometown with a new culture. Actually, they will miss their families and friends, so homesickness is One of the big issues faces the international students. How can they eradicate this problem? There are some solutions help international students to prevent homesick.

First, the friendship keeps us so happy. Therefore, try to make new friends. Be a sociable person with a new life and experience. In your free time, hang out with new people. If you find a problem with them, go to the collage activities to make new friend there.

Recently, the new technology keeps you close to your families. You have many websites and APPS to contact with your friends and families all the time. You can call and see them through these applications such as Line and IMO. These programs help you to prevent the homesickness. Use the social media to share your relevant a new experience.

All international students come for studying, Therefore, focus on your studying goals. Use the facilities of the university or collage to help you with studying for example, they go to Starbucks café to having a good time every Friday. Don't waste your time thinking about your family and hometown. Remind yourself to get the certificate to keep your family happy.

Homesickness is the worst feeling for international students, so they can solve this problem with friendship in the new country. Social media made the world close to each other. Studying is the main goal for international students, so ignore all the effects of homesickness on your studying. A new experience helps the international students to fix all problems facing them in the new country.

The Best Ways to Make New Friends

Barbara Muniz
RW 10/20

I think the best ways to make new friends is to be sociable, to find out what people like to do, and the most important thing is to be yourself. It is necessary to be sociable because without communication it is difficult to make friends. Knowing what the person likes to do is important to knowing what they identify to. The main point is to be yourself because people have to like you for who you are and not what you have. To me, these are the most important points in making friends.

Causes of Dental Caries among Children

Abeer Alqahtani
RW43

The main goal of dental health societies in all countries is to have communities without dental problems, which is hard to achieve. To reach this goal they have to find out the most epidemic dental problems and their causes. Dental caries, which is defined as bacterial disease affects sound teeth and causes cavities and deformities in their outer surface, is the biggest dental problem affecting people, especially children. Dental caries has many causes that lead to an increase in the prevalence of tooth decay among children.

The first cause of the high prevalence of tooth decay among children is the weak role of ministries of health and governments in reducing and preventing caries. First of all, the primary role of governments in dental health care is to raise the dental health awareness level among their communities, apply preventive programs to decrease dental caries, and to offer good dental treatment for all people in their countries at affordable prices. However, some governments do not apply any preventive programs for any health problem. To illustrate that, if we randomly choose one of the governmental dental hospitals in Saudi Arabia and check their records to know the percentage of preventive treatment that was done such as Topical Fluoride Gel application, we will notice less than 10% of the treatments done are considered as preventive treatment. They claim to be unable to afford the high cost of these programs despite spending much higher costs to treat these problems. For example, in the past, heads of the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia did not apply any protective method for dental decay because they thought these programs were not useful and need more equipment and money. At the same time, governments import very expensive dental materials, to treat dental caries, which will contribute to treating a limited number of patients. Furthermore, caries prevention programs play a great role in children having healthy teeth because they are more aware of the importance of dental health. It also contributes to keeping children away from the psychological and educational problems related to tooth decay. As a result of the bad appearance of a decayed tooth, a child's self-confidence will be affected because children make fun of his appearance. Also, the child's academic performance will be affected badly by tooth decay and the pain related to it. For example, when a child has a toothache, he will not sleep well and he will probably miss classes.

The second cause of tooth decay among children is a low level of dental health awareness among parents which affects the child behavior. To illustrate that, some families do not teach their children how to use a toothbrush or encourage them to clean their teeth every day, and if the parents

do not brush their teeth, it will be worse. For example, children always do what their parents did, the child mimics his parents' voice, laugh, movements, hair style, and the parents' way of brushing their teeth as well. However, other families care about dental brushing and give their child rewards if he brushes his teeth daily, but they get depressed when their son's teeth get caries. For these people, we have to explain that teeth brushing, if it is done in correct way, is one of many steps to have healthy smile. For instance, if we do a comparison between two children, the first one does not brush her teeth and the other brushes twice daily but in a wrong way, we will find both of them have caries. In addition, if they clean their teeth using the same method but one of them eats a lot of sweets, she will be more susceptible to caries. In addition, some parents ignore their child dental health even if his teeth are carious because they consider treating of primary teeth while their child will get new teeth is useless. However, the health of primary teeth affects permanent teeth eruption, occlusion, and health as well. For example, when a child loses his teeth in young age, he will lose the space available to permanent teeth which will affect his occlusion in the future.

In addition to the weak role of governments and low level of awareness among parents, unhealthy food, which is defined as food full of saturated fats, sugars, carbohydrates and lacking in proteins, vitamins, and minerals, is one of main causes of dental caries among children. Nowadays, people in our community consume fast food, sweets, and soft drinks daily or one item of them at least. The first thing we think about when we want to celebrate is unhealthy food: cakes, sweets, sodas, and other sugary food. Also, some parents and teachers consider candies as reward when the child do something good but they never think about fruits or other healthy choices. For example, most day care centers and schools celebrate holidays and their special occasions such as graduation parties with a lot of unhealthy food. When the child lives in an environment like this, she will have many carious teeth even if she cleans his teeth regularly but if she does not brush her teeth the situation will be worse, because the bacteria in her mouth have a proper environment to grow and destroy teeth: acids and time. To illustrate that, when we eat food and we do not brush our teeth, the remaining food will accumulate in our mouth which will increases the acidity in the mouth, which is the main energy source for bacteria.

The last cause of dental caries is the dental treatment cost. Many people notice dental caries in their children teeth but they ignore dentist visit because they can not afford the treatment cost. Most people are looking for free dental treatment in governmental hospitals which causes long waiting lists. For example, in most of governmental hospitals in Saudi Arabia, children who need to dental treatment under general anesthesia have to wait for 2-4 months which is considered a very long time to treat

primary teeth because they are more susceptible to destroy than permanent teeth. As a result of the long waiting time, some parents decide to treat their children at private dental clinics. However, they usually choose dental treatment at the lowest price even if it is not the ideal treatment. For instance, some people choose extraction of a tooth instead of restoring it because it costs less.

In conclusion, dental caries is the biggest epidemic dental disease among children and adults as well. The weak participation of ministries of health and governments, low level of dental health awareness, unhealthy food, and high cost of dental treatment are main causes of dental caries among children. In my opinion, governments and dentists have a greater role to overcome dental caries among children by improving the awareness level regarding dental health in their communities and by making balance between treatment quality and its price, which means everyone can acquire good dental treatment at a reasonable price.

My Classmates

Omar M H B Almutairi
RW 20

I love my classmates in my Reading and Writing class. My classmate, Almaymouni Abdulrahman is my best friend and he is a good student. Ali is smart and energetic. I feel happy when I am with him. Ahmad makes me a good student. Abdulrahman Alanazi is also my classmate, and he helps me with studying. He makes everybody happy in class. Also, Mohammad helps me when I need. I don't feel lonely because they stay with me all the time. Khadija is the first student to answer all difficult questions from teacher's questions. Jorge is a clever student, but he has too many absences. Alanazi Mohammad is the happiest person in class, and he spreads his smiles. My classmates, Abullah also helps me when I face troubles and problems. I admire Rui for her endeavor. Khaled is also one of my best friends because he is with me all the time. I thank to ELI because they brought us together!

The GW Assignment

Saud Alholiby
GW

Most definitely because of the Bedouin lifestyle in the Arabian Peninsula that relies on mobility from one place to another in search of pasture and rain, in the Arabic culture, ruins meditation is one of the primary emotional situations that motivates poets. In addition to ruins meditation, other topics like the rain and love can be seen in the opening lines of many classical poems. An Arabic poet, who is well-known for his pessimism, went further than anybody else and said what means:

Tread softly, walk gently;

for I believe the soil of this earth is nothing but the crumbled dust of these bodies.

Walk leisurely on air, if able to; not self-conceitedly, on peoples' mortal remains.

For me, a view of the ruins of a silent town or neighborhood, a palace or small house, that is all that I need to feel moved. This kind of scene touches me so much even if I do not know where it is and what the story behind it is. Simply, because it is "a dead body"! The idea of having people who had been living in a place and, suddenly, there is nothing but their remains, is an astonishing and frightening idea at the same time. I say "suddenly" because this kind of "death" occurs like a bolt of lightning considering the historical context. Another side I always ponder is that trees and plants, like buildings and humans, lose their lives and become without souls, but physical existence only, sometimes even in areas of high rainfall. Are all of them social creatures? Do they live together or die together? Is it a joint tale that started and ended at the same time for all of them?

No doubt, any town was built to stay and live; and the first generation had never imagined before establishing it that it and they would reach this destiny at the end: a historical place for pleasure for next generations! It gives me a top view on life. To paraphrase, everything will end at a certain time and be a part of the past, even cities with their residents cannot stand forever! Moreover, the next generations, merely and sadly, make the place or the area, later, accessible for the public to visit and have fun! And life continues, until it reaches its end as well! Nevertheless, humans always act and live as they will stand evermore.

Furthermore, in such a context, usually, a difference in consideration and how to look at the scene can be noticed between old people and young. Apparently, as long as a human is getting old, he/she starts to realize and believe more and more that there is an end because almost everything starts and lives for a finite time; then gets old and, finally, dies somehow. One essential reason why this vision is more clear for the elderly is that they have seen that natural circle, with all its stages, in everything in their lives and, before everything else, in themselves!

Curiously, I always wonder about whether visitors to those "historical places" have ever put themselves in that large and spectacular context. Do they yet realize that they are only and literally "visitors"? However, I have read once that a Danish philosopher said "most people just play life without asking themselves any question". Are you one of those people?!

Go on vacation

Juan Postiglione
RW42

Vacations are the rupture of daily activities and they liberate people from work that could be stressful in people's life. This happen because of traveling gives the opportunity to live new experiences, enjoy the moment and have a good time. There are several reasons about why vacations are better than a "staycation" including stress, life experiences and relationships.

One reason about why vacations are better than a "staycation", is that going out makes people de-stress. Usually, a person who stays at home frequently has more stress thinking about their work and responsibilities. On the other hand, vacations gives people more calm and tranquility staying away from jobs and obligations.

Another reason that explain why vacations are better is life's experiences is that people often stay at home and they prefer the confort zone, in a such way, they are not going to learn anything about the history around the world. In contrast, traveling could help people to know about the culture, religion and interesting facts of another countries as a consequence, people can have a good time going out of their routine.

The last reason that why vacation is better than stay at home are relationships. The people who stay always in their hometown do not have many friends to hang out or work, frequently they go out with the same friends. On the other hand, the people who travel a lot could meet more people and obtain more opportunities for jobs, improve their social environment and find a couple.

In conclusion, traveling and go on vacation is better that stay at home and people can have the privilege to know what is outside of their place of work. In this way, people have the opportunity to meet a group of friends that could help them in a future. Also, people can relax and leave the stress that could be unhealthy for us and with this experiences people always could have an interesting history to talk about.

Water Pollution

Nayef Aladwani
RW43

Mankind have been depending on water from the beginning of time. Without it human beings wouldn't be able to survive for even a week. Water is the most essential thing for life. All living organisms need water to survive, so for it to get polluted is a catastrophic event. Water pollution is a worldwide issue. It doesn't just effect countries but also continents. Water pollution can cause a lot of issues and effects a lot of things in our lives.

The main cause of water pollution is our waste. Human beings have been throwing their waste in the oceans for centuries. It's been piling up creating huge spots of waste in oceans. For example, in the Indian ocean divers have discovered a huge area of waste like plastic just floating on the water. Plastic products are the most common waste found in oceans because of its use in every product. A lot of people don't try to throw them in the recycling trash or even in any trash. Almost all the villagers who live on the coastal regions of India throw their plastic waste into the sea.

Water pollution effects both humans and animals alike in many ways. The most striking effect of water pollution is on the environment of most sea creators. It destroys both the homes of these creators and their main source of food. Many species of fish have become extinct because of the pollution their habitat has suffered from. For example, the coral reef in Australia was one of the biggest coral reefs in the world. It contained a lot of fish and sea plant types in its ecosystem. Water pollution in the coral reef resulted in a lot of plants dying. As a result, many species of fish have become extinct.

The best way to approach this issue is by stopping the chemical waste that is thrown into the ocean. The first approach is by suing the factories if they throw any kind of waste into the ocean, or by making a law forbidding any kind of waste to be thrown into the ocean. Governments can force the factories to use only recyclable materials, so it can be easier to dispose these said materials. Antibiotics in sewage is causing a lot of problems to the fishes because its killing the plants the fishes use as a source of food. The governments must stop the use of antibiotics by using non-chemical treatments for the sewage water.

Another solution to this problem is by making new rules to stop the throwing of plastic waste to the sea. Plastic waste contributes in killing millions of animals living in oceans and seas. Fish and other sea animals like sea turtles and whales see plastic as food, so they always try and eat them. Consequently, it gets stuck in their stomach and they die immediately. A lot of organizations are helping to solve this problem either by taking the plastic from the water or by giving awareness to

people. Governments must take action and stop the throwing of plastic products into the sea. Making or creating rules that prohibits the throwing of plastic products by force if they must. They can also create huge fines to those who throw plastic products into the sea.

To sum it all up, water pollution is a worldwide catastrophe. It's comparable to plague. It's our responsibility as humans to stop it from the roots. Water pollution is killing both the environment and the animals. By stopping the chemical waste from even touching the water, we would be making our first step into a better clean world. In my opinion, a world without any pollution is a better healthier world.

My RW Class

Mohammad Althaher
RW 20

I like my Reading and Writing class. I understand all. It's a nice class. I have wonderful classmates. Our classmates don't seem old, and there are women and men. Sometimes we make jokes. We usually speak every day to practice English. Every Monday, we must turn in our reading homework and writing homework. Every Friday, we have an exam. When I need some help, my teacher helps me. We have an amazing teacher. She teaches very well, and she helps us. I'm very happy because I'm studying in this class now.

The Reasons Why I like My RW Class and My Classmates

Bader A S N Almutairi
RW 20

I love my RW class because it's a nice class. My relationship with RW is like challenging. I have problems with writing. I hope I can fix it. RW class helps me to find my mistakes. I should practice more and find where the problems are between Grammar and spellings. RW class makes my English language improve. Another reason why I like RW class because I have wonderful classmates. They are amazing students. They always try to help me. Although it is a perfect class for me, I have a problem with time. It is very difficult to get up early in the morning every day, but I try to come to class on time every day. For all these reasons, I'd like to continue my English at the ELI.

The ELI

Khadija Alanazi
RW 20

I study at a great place. It is surrounded by excellent activities, hardworking employees, wonderful students, and peace. They have many activities such as football, soccer, trips, conversation partners, and a talent show all week. It is very interesting. I can manage my time between studying and these activities. They have good teachers. All of them are friendly. They work hard, but they smile and say "Hello!" to everyone all the time. The teachers know how to teach well. If students have any problems, they help them. They have a great deal of patience for students. I can see a lot of students from different countries. For example, they are Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and American. It is very enjoyable. I can talk with everybody, and I can have many friendships. There are many natural views and many trees inside the ELI. Also, there are three libraries, and they are amazing. All students go there and spend a lot of time to study. I always go to the library and make plans and prepare for presentations because it is very quiet and close from my house. I love ELI so much because it is an appropriate place for learning English language. I'd like to recommend to my friends to come to ELI if they want to improve their English!

Grateful

Kelly Huizzi
RW 42

On my horizon, I see some traveling clouds
that draw the smile of my mother.
In those moments, I suffer symptoms of nostalgia
but I remember that smile is a reason to keep going.
I am privileged, after seeing so many deaths
nothing discourages my spirit.
Grateful that I did not miss school
I did not lack food.
Sometimes I think about how more than a half of my friends
would like to have my opportunities.
That's why I do not forget when I Prayed for what I have now,
That's why I do not forget where I come from.

Problems in the ELI students

Andrea Bruzual Alcalá
RW 42

Research shows that up to 70% of students will experience homesickness in their early days at university. A lot of international students have some problems when they are leaving home. Fortunately, they have several ways to reduce these problems. The problems are homesickness, have to obey the rules in the United States and have to do all the household by themselves. When the international students have good friends to spend time, the feeling of homesickness will disappear.

The first problem is that international students feel homesick. It is a normal part of the experience of leaving home. It always happens because the international students feel alone in the United States, as a consequence that they do not meet anybody in this new country. International students should go to all the activities that the ELI has. The events are fun, and this is the first step to make new friends. Also, they could call their family to avoid be depress for missing them.

Another problem that the ELI students should front facing is have to obey the rules in the United States. Definitely, this is a great responsibility because when the students arrive to the United States, they want to do a lot of antics such as to drink alcohol on the streets knowing that they are under eighteen because they feel with the freedom to do whatever they want due to their parents are not seeing them. So, if they do not know the rules of the United States they could have a serious problem with the police. The best option to avoid have problems with the laws of the United States is learning all the rules that it has.

The last problem when international students come to the United States to study is they have to do all the household by themselves. Thus, it means that they have to washing dishes, sweeping and polishing the floor. This is a challenge because they should be responsible with their parents and themselves. A final solution for this problem is creating a table time to get free hours to have fun doing amazing activities with their friends from the ELI and do all the household.

In conclusion, International students have some problems to take of when they travel to the United States. Homesickness is not a good feeling for anybody, they should go to all the activities that the ELI has. And, if they are missing their families they could call them. Learning the rules of the United States to avoid a serious problem with the police can also relieve an international student from the great responsibility to study in a foreign country. Create a table time is a final way to do all the household by themselves and have fun doing amazing activities with their friends. ELI students can have a great experience in the United States if they take care about the problems to come here and confront this with the best responsibility.

My Fulbright experience so far

Nairobi Asprilla
RW 60

2 years ago, I decided to apply to the Fulbright scholarship in my country, Panama. I wanted to apply to this specific scholarship because for me Fulbright is more than just a scholarship, it is a program that allows you to interact with people from around the world with diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences and that enrich your life and broaden your mind in many ways. Also, it promotes the cultural exchange, engagement with the community and the intellectual freedom and these experiences are the ones I wanted to have in my life.

I knew the process to apply will not be easy because many people with great professional backgrounds apply each year, but I was determined to do it and obtain it one day. I had to apply 2 years. The first year I passed the whole process but at the end I was chosen as an alternate, even if I could not get it the first time I was so happy to be able to get that far in my first try that year, so I decided to prepare better for the next year, present an improved application and work more to strengthen my weaknesses.

In 2017 I submitted my application again to the Fulbright page and the U.S. embassy in Panama elected me again as one of the candidates for this prestigious scholarship. I was so happy to be running again in the competition, so I prepared better for the interviews, the tests and I studied a lot to obtain it in my second try, and everything was rewarded because at the end of this long path they finally chose me as a principal candidate. I can still remember every single detail of that amazing day and the fact that know that I will be a Fulbrighter changed my life since the first minute.

I cannot be more grateful with the Fulbright program for allow me to have this opportunity in my life. Now, I started this journey a month ago in University of Florida, one of the best Universities of this country where I am taking classes to enhance my English skills and be more prepared to face my biggest challenge that is my master studies in Logistics this fall semester.

Living in the suburbs

Mohammad Alsumaih
RW 42

At some point of your life, time will come to have your own house. Then you must decide between living near the city center or living in the suburbs. Every choice has its pros and cons. However, there are many reasons why you should choose to live in the suburbs over near the city center.

One big reason to live in the suburb is the pollution. In the city, there are a lot of noises from cars, airplanes, industries. Also, in the city, you will be exposed to the toxic air in your daily life. These kinds of pollutions could affect your health. Noise pollutions causes different type of problems, such as high blood pressure, stress, and sleep disturbance. Also, air pollutions cause different type of problems, such as respiratory disease, chest pain, and throat inflammation. On the other hand, living in the suburbs will reduce these problems. You can enjoy the quiet atmosphere to live peacefully and sleep calmly. Also, you will enjoy breathing the clean lively energetic air which make your life healthier.

Another reason to live in the suburbs is the benefits of housing. It's known that the farther away you go from the city center the lower the cost of housing gets. In addition, due to the bigger space in the suburbs, you could have many pets and animals. Also, you could grow different kind of plants, fruits, and vegetables. While in the city these features will be minimized due to the cost and space.

An important reason to live in the suburbs is to insure a better life for your children. Living in the city will reduce the chance for your kids to get into a good school. Also, your kids won't have the same space to play and have fun. In contrast, most schools around the suburbs are known to have a better education system. In addition, your kids will have a bigger space to play and do different outdoor activities.

In conclusion, living in the suburbs is better because of all the pollution around the city center, benefits of housing, and a better place for your children to be educated and have fun. Therefore, if you planning to have your own house, you should live in the suburbs.

A Person I Admire

Barbara Muniz
RW 10/20

Surely the person I most admire and want to be like is Jesus. However, today I am going to talk especially about my father. It may seem obvious, but my father is certainly the best in the world. He is an example of honesty and kindness, always expressing concerns for others. He is the kind of person who lends and does not ask back, even when it comes to money. He prefers to lose money than friendship and peace. My father is doing to my brother and I what his own father didn't do for him. He took over the whole family when he was only fifteen, shortly after the passing away of my grandfather. He supported my grandmother and three aunts, despite that he was the youngest of them.

Advantages of Debit and Credit Cards

Rafael Vicente
RW 42

The trees are thankful for the cards. Since the debit and credit card were invented, they become more and more popular. Therefore, less and less paper money are used, then less and less trees are cut. There are several convenient qualities of these cards that explain why people are increasing their use. Both are easier to carry and safer than money, also both can be used to buy your wishes on the internet.

A important advantage of cards is about how is simple to being used. Like debit card, credit card has the same shape and format. They are easy to carry and if you have one them with you, you can not worry about load coins and much money, nor where you will keep the change.

Another similarity is that both are safer than money. If you will be stealed, you can call to bank and locked your card. This is a simple action that you have to do to save your money. In contrast, with money is impossible to do.

In addition, it is a special place that is impossible to use paper money and the cards reign, on the internet. Credit card can be used to shop online. This is a great advantage over the money. Likewise, the debit card also has equal ability. Both give to users access to a uncountable products and shops on the internet.

The credit and debit cards changed the world. Our trades are so adapted to accept these cards that the markets stimulate your customers to use them. Furthermore, the cards are more portable, more safe, able to be used on the internet and yet can save trees.

What is ELI?

Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas
RW 51

Expectant people arrive,
sometimes self-conscious, sometimes confident,
even and again, intriguing thoughts appear in their mind,
even though, the warmth of home is so far;
they are walking through the language door,
possibilities and viewpoints could change our lives.

Lovable and fascinating personalities,
Amazing landscapes, customs, and food,
On board at the ELI, the earth seems miniature
Because each person is able to share their world,
It is an awesome virtual travel throughout communities.
At the end of the day, each one will learn more than English,
we come together in one same direction:
Live the colorful life, follow the ambitious dreams.

In middle of the classroom, friendship is breathed,
As well as spending time, also it could be a smile in the hallway,
Or saying a word of encouragement before the presentation,
Sharing a good talk on Monday Mixer,
Giving advice to find the building,
Gathering for a fast food potluck or a desserts potluck,
Getting close to each other while feeling homesick,
The never-ending list should conclude that,
It is not important race, country, professor, student, religion, money;
It is worth working together building a better world,
And in the way more susceptible to learn.

This acrostic is dedicated to everyone in ELI, teachers, staff and students, especially my classmates.

Why did you choose Gainesville, UF, or the US study instead of other places?

Seho Park
RW43

When I was 13 years old, I went to China because my father's job moved to China. At that time I didn't have my first mid-term exam in middle school and I was excited about living abroad. Consequently, I was happy that moment. Even though, I couldn't say *ni hao* (hello in Chinese), I went to local Chinese middle school. This situation made me introverted; however, my many Chinese friends helped me to improve my Chinese very fast. For example, I couldn't eat lunch during the lunch time because I don't know where it is and how to ask where I can buy my lunch menu in Chinese, but my Chinese helped me to buy my lunch. While I lived in China, I learned lots of things that helped me choose Gainesville. I have four reasons why I chose Gainesville: reducing expense, meeting academic people in university city, living in an English-speaking country, and living environment.

First, I tried to save my money and time for living. One of my cousins started to study in UF in August 2017. He studies industrial engineering for Ph.D. so he got apartment dormitory for Ph.D students. It has a good place on campus and a good price to stay. Of course, living with my cousin isn't good for my English, because every day we talk in Korean. But we can share our housework and our living expenses to save time. Everyone gets tired when he or she does housework by himself or herself so if my cousin cooks for dinner, I wash dishes every time. That way, we don't get tired. For economic example, my cousin pays about \$850 per month for the apartment and I pay for the food that we eat in the house. It is about \$500 per month except for outside meals. It seems unfair, but my cousin suggested this. For me, I am just always thankful for my cousin because he always tries to take care of my living.

Secondly, I expected that I can meet a lot of academic students if I live in college town. For example, I register my "conversation partner" program, through this program I can get relationship with real UF students, so I can get good experience with students. I heard that Gainesville started because of UF and many parts of Gainesville are UF. For this reason, I think I can get a relationship with many university students. For example, in Korea, near the universities there are a lot of students living and hanging out so there are a lot of advantages to university life. Based on this example, I can imagine that nearby UF I can interact with even more university students, even if I wasn't inside of the university, since UF is larger than the universities in Korea.

Another reason I chose Gainesville is that living in an English-speaking country is the most efficient way to learn a language. Of course, many people are learning in their own country; however, I had an experience when I went to China and improved Chinese fast. For example, when I went to local Chinese school, I couldn't say any words because I didn't know anything about China and Chinese. But my Chinese friends and other people were very kind to me, had me use lots of Chinese, and I tried to use the new words on my sentence then, I can use Chinese smoothly. I overcame this situation and I didn't have any problem with my conversation. I satisfied myself when I speak Chinese softly. Consequently, this experience made me expect to learn English efficiently, despite my 1-year-life in Gainesville.

Lastly, I like the weather and environment in Gainesville, UF. Seoul, South Korea is more polluted than Gainesville especially air pollution. For example, I lived in China for five years. Even though it was 10 years ago, there was air pollution in China. At that time I was just satisfied with South Korean air. But after my trips to European countries, U.S., and other Asia countries, I didn't want to live with polluted air. Of course, living in Gainesville is a small part of my life, but I want to breathe more fresh air like in Gainesville. We can measure the air quality index: In Korea, it's about 200, and an average of North America is about 30. We can see how different the quality of air in two places is, so I decided to breathe fresh air before I found the job, because my job might be in Korea or China.

I came to Gainesville to learn English and gave myself some rest, and I chose Gainesville for these four reasons with my experience. Maybe someone who lives in Korea thinks I am the easygoing person because many of my aged people have already found their job or studied more about their major; however, I know I am late in finding a job now. I should have finished my English before I graduated because in Korea, many kinds of companies require applicant's English grade like TOFLE or TOEIC. I forgot a lot of Chinese because I didn't use my Chinese during my military service and studying my major. Therefore, I realized that if I didn't keep using foreign language it would be easy to forget how to speak these languages. "I came here" already happened, so I don't have any choice except learning English. Therefore, I will keep studying English harder and harder.



PO Box 117051	StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
223 Matherly Hall	www.eli.ufl.edu
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA	www.facebook.com/UFLELI
Phone: (352) 392-2070	www.instagram.com/UFLELI
Fax: (352) 392-3744	www.twitter.com/UFLELI